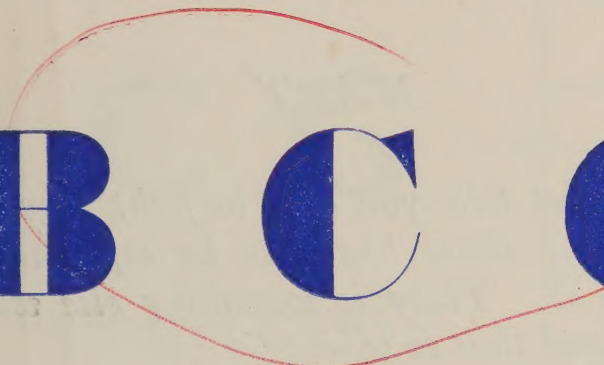




B C G

PROTECTION
AGAINST
TUBERCULOSIS



NAPT

This leaflet tells you how to fight tuberculosis by protecting those likely to be especially susceptible to it. There is something else we have to fight—and that is fear.

Those who read this leaflet may be afraid of tuberculosis. The first step in conquering this disease is to conquer our fear. Fear can be conquered by knowledge. Spreading this knowledge through leaflets and an educational magazine—the NAPT BULLETIN—is the work of the NAPT.

You can help in this work by joining the NAPT. Ordinary membership is *five shillings* a year. Subscribing membership, which includes a contribution to the work of the Association, is *one guinea* a year.

Write to one of the addresses on the back cover.



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BCG —

PROTECTION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

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For those about to be vaccinated.

I.

Most people have heard of the benefits of "inoculation" against diphtheria. In something the same way it is now possible to "vaccinate" people against tuberculosis. Four hundred die of this disease every week in Great Britain. Can we prevent such tragedies? We can. After years of experiment a way has been found. The modern way is to give vaccination by what is called BCG, and it helps us to safeguard a great many people against tuberculosis.

2.

Human tuberculosis is caused by a living germ from the cough and spit of tuberculous patients through contact with them. Fortunately, most of us, especially by the time we are grown-up, develop without knowing it a strong natural protection against this infection. Our systems are powerful enough to kill off the invaders if there happen to be any and we come to no harm. Such fortunate and healthy people have therefore no need of vaccination. Nature has done the job for them. The vast majority of people in Britain today are self-protected in this way.

3.

A few people, however, for one reason or another, do not get this protection naturally. We can give them it artificially by vaccination with BCG. But how are we to distinguish between them? How can we tell who is "self-protected," and who needs vaccination with BCG?

4.

We can do this by a harmless test—called the “tuberculin test,” performed as follows :—

A tiny drop of *tuberculin* fluid is injected painlessly into the skin. If it becomes red in from two to seven days afterwards, it means that the person is naturally protected, and no vaccination will be needed.

But if nothing happens after such a test (a so-called “negative” reaction) then BCG vaccination should be given to provide the margin of safety needed to prevent tuberculosis in that person.

5.

Vaccination for those having a “negative” reaction is especially desirable in the following groups :

- (a) Infants and young children when the parent has tuberculosis.
- (b) Those in contact with a tuberculous patient, especially adolescents and young people.

(c) Nurses, medical students, and hospital workers who may come in contact with the disease in their daily work.

The doctor will indicate how long before, and how long after vaccination with BCG the person should be kept out of contact with a tuberculous patient, and when he should come again for another test.

6.

The actual vaccination with BCG is a very simple matter and nothing to worry about. A tiny drop of fluid, this time the actual vaccine, is injected into the skin. In about three weeks a very small red spot appears. Sometimes this may ooze a little, but it fades after some weeks. An almost invisible dot is all that remains but the procedure has given protection.

7.

A person who has been vaccinated with BCG in this very easy way is likely to be protected against later infection with the

germ of tuberculosis. We cannot guarantee absolutely that such a person will never develop tuberculosis. But the risks and chances are much reduced and we believe this protection will last from two to seven years. It is something worth doing—but only for those who are “negative” to the tuberculin test as mentioned in paragraph 4.

8.

Remember finally that BCG only protects against tuberculosis. It is not a cure. It is unnecessary and indeed useless as a treatment for those who have developed the disease already.

9.

BCG vaccination is usually carried out at chest clinics. If you have any difficulty about finding such a centre, ask your local medical officer of health.



Specimen copies of this leaflet may be obtained free. Larger numbers 7s. 6d. per hundred.

2mg/ml = 100,000 units of O.T.

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No. 9. Tuberculosis — Twenty-one Questions and Answers. 10s. per hundred.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the
PREVENTION of TUBERCULOSIS

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